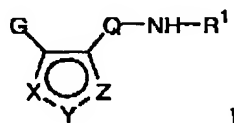


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IN THE CLAIMS

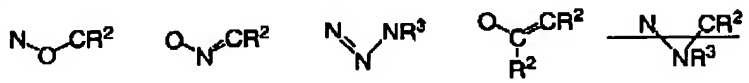
Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the amended claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula



wherein:

X-Y-Z is selected from one of the following:



R¹ is H, CONH₂, T_(n)-R, or T_(n)-Ar²;

R is an aliphatic or substituted aliphatic group;

n is zero or one;

T is C(=O), CO₂, CONH, S(O)₂, S(O)₂NH, COCH₂ or CH₂;

each R² is independently selected from hydrogen, -R, -CH₂OR, -CH₂OH, -CH=O,

-CH₂SR, -CH₂S(O)₂R, -CH₂(C=O)R, -CH₂CO₂R, -CH₂CO₂H, -CH₂CN, -CH₂NHR,

-CH₂N(R)₂, -CH=N-OR, -CH=NNHR, -CH=NN(R)₂, -CH=NNHCOR,

-CH=NNHCO₂R, -CH=NNHSO₂R, -aryl, -substituted aryl, -CH₂(aryl),

-CH₂(substituted aryl), -CH₂NH₂, -CH₂NHCOR, -CH₂NHCONHR, -CH₂NHCON(R)₂,

-CH₂NRCOR, -CH₂NHCO₂R, -CH₂CONHR, -CH₂CON(R)₂, -CH₂SO₂NH₂,

-CH₂(heterocyclyl), -CH₂(substituted heterocyclyl), -(heterocyclyl), or -(substituted heterocyclyl);

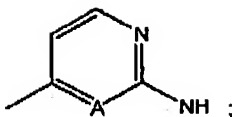
each R³ is independently selected from hydrogen, R, COR, CO₂R or S(O)₂R;

G is R or Ar¹;

Ar¹ is aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, heterocyclyl, or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein Ar¹ is optionally fused to a partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms;

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Q-NH is



wherein the H of Q-NH is optionally replaced by R^3 ;

A is CR^3 ;

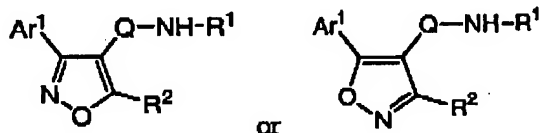
Ar^2 is aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein Ar^2 is optionally fused to a partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms;

wherein each substitutable carbon atom in Ar^2 , including the fused ring when present, is optionally and independently substituted by halo, R, OR, SR, OH, NO_2 , CN, NH_2 , NHR, $N(R)_2$, NHCOR, NHCONHR, $NHCON(R)_2$, NRCOR, $NHCO_2R$, CO_2R , CO_2H , COR, CONHR, $CON(R)_2$, $S(O)_2R$, $SONH_2$, $S(O)R$, SO_2NHR , or $NHS(O)_2R$, and wherein each saturated carbon in the fused ring is further optionally and independently substituted by $=O$, $=S$, $=NNHR$, $=NNR_2$, $=N-OR$, $=NNHCOR$, $=NNHCO_2R$, $=NNHSO_2R$, or $=NR$; and

wherein each substitutable nitrogen atom in Ar^2 is optionally substituted by R, COR, $S(O)_2R$, or CO_2R .

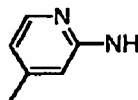
2. (Original) The compound of claim 1 where G is Ar^1 .

3. (Original) The compound of claim 2 having the formula



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4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 3 where Q-NH is



5. (Original) The compound of claim 4 where R¹ is alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, pyridinylalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, cycloalkyl, alkoxycarbonylcycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, Ar² or T-Ar² where T is C(=O).

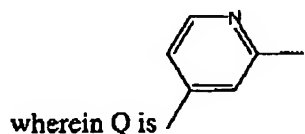
6. (Original) The compound of claim 5 where R¹ is cyclohexyl, cyclohexanol-4-yl, cyclohexanon-4-yl, 2-propan-1-ol, 2-methoxy-1-methylethyl, 3-butyryl alkyl ester, 2-pyridinyl-2-ethyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl, thienyl or indanyl.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6 where R² is an optionally substituted alkyl.

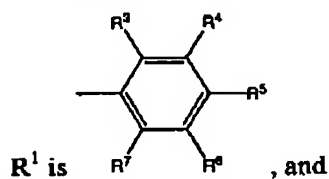
8. (Previously presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of



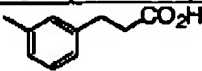
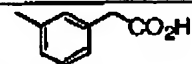
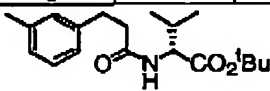
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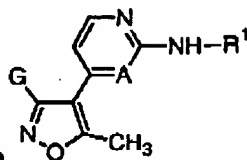
Ar² is R¹,



G, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are defined as

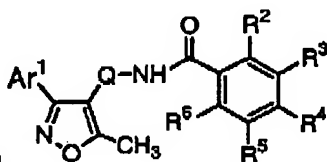
No.	G	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	R ⁶	R ⁷
IIA-16	Phenyl	Et	H	CN	H	H	H
IIA-17	Phenyl	Et	H	CO ₂ H	H	H	H
IIA-18	Phenyl	Me	H	F	H	H	H
IIA-19	Phenyl	Me	H	H	F	H	H
IIA-20	Phenyl	Me	H	H	COMe	H	H
IIA-21	Phenyl	Me	H	H	COPh	H	H
IIA-24	Phenyl	Me	H	H	CONH ₂	H	H
IIA-40	Phenyl	Et	H	H	H	H	H
IIA-43	Phenyl	Me	H	CO ₂ H	H	H	H
IIA-47	Phenyl	Me	H	H	OMe	H	H
IIA-48	Phenyl	Me	H	OMe	H	H	H
IIA-50	Phenyl	Me	H	CO ₂ Me	H	H	H
IIA-52	Phenyl	Me	H	H	H	H	H
IIA-64	Phenyl	Me	H	H	CO ₂ Me	H	H
IIA-67	Phenyl	Me	H	CN	H	H	H
IIA-68	Phenyl	Me	H	H	CN	H	H
IIA-98	Phenyl	Me	H	H	NMe ₂	H	H
IIA-99	Phenyl	Me	H	NO ₂	H	H	H
IIA-100	Phenyl	Me	H	NHAc	H	H	H
IIA-101	Phenyl	Me	H	NH ₂	H	H	H
IIA-132	Phenyl	Me					
IIA-133	Phenyl	Me					
IIA-134	Phenyl	Me	H	CH ₂ OH	H	H	H
IIA-135	Phenyl	Me					

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(b) a compound of formula :
 wherein G, A and R¹ are defined as

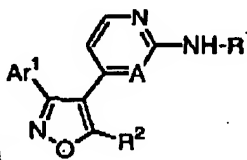
No.	G	A	R ¹
IIAA-1	Phenyl	CH	
IIAA-2	Phenyl	CH	
IIAA-39	Phenyl	CH	
IIAA-40	Phenyl	CH	



(c) a compound of formula :

wherein Q is and
 Ar¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are defined as

No.	Ar ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	R ⁵	R ⁶
IIIA-77	phenyl	H	COMe	H	H	H
IIIA-78	phenyl	H	CN	H	H	H



(d) a compound of formula :
 wherein Ar¹, A, R¹ and R² are defined as

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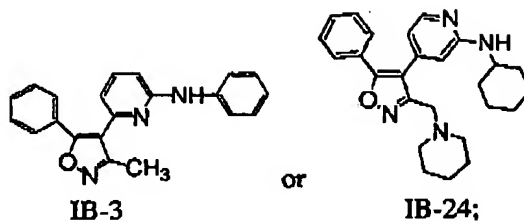
No.	Ar ¹	A	R ¹	R ²
XIA-1	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-2	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ N(CH ₃) ₂
XIA-3	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ NEt ₂
XIA-4	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ N(CH ₃)CH ₂ Ph
XIA-5	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ (1- <i>t</i> - butoxycarbonylpiperazin-4- yl)
XIA-6	phenyl	CH	benzyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-7	phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-8	phenyl	CH	4-[1,2-(OMe) ₂ -phenyl]	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-9	phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-10	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ N(CH ₃)CH ₂ CH ₂ N(CH ₃) ₂
XIA-11	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ N(CH ₃)CH ₂ CO ₂ CH ₃
XIA-12	phenyl	CH	phenyl	CH ₂ (piperazin-1-yl)
XIA-15	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-16	4-F-phenyl	CH	3-cyanophenyl	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-17	4-F-phenyl	CH	2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-18	4-F-phenyl	CH	1-benzyl-piperidin-4-yl	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-19	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-20	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-21	4-F-phenyl	CH	2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl	CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-22	4-F-phenyl	CH	1-benzyl-piperidin-4-yl	CH ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-23	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-24	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-25	4-F-phenyl	CH	3-cyanophenyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-26	4-F-phenyl	CH	2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-27	4-F-phenyl	CH	1-benzyl-piperidin-4-yl	CH ₂ (morpholin-4-yl)
XIA-28	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-29	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-30	4-F-phenyl	CH	3-cyanophenyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-31	4-F-phenyl	CH	2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-32	4-F-phenyl	CH	1-benzyl-piperidin-4-yl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-33	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-34	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-35	4-F-phenyl	CH	3-cyanophenyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-36	4-F-phenyl	CH	2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃
XIA-37	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-cyclohexanol	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-38	4-F-phenyl	CH	cyclohexyl	CH ₂ O(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)
XIA-41	4-F-phenyl	CH	4-methoxybenzyl	CH ₂ OCH ₃

(e) a compound selected from:

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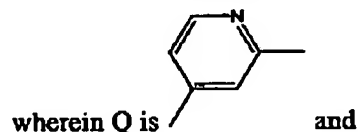
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(f) a compound having the formula

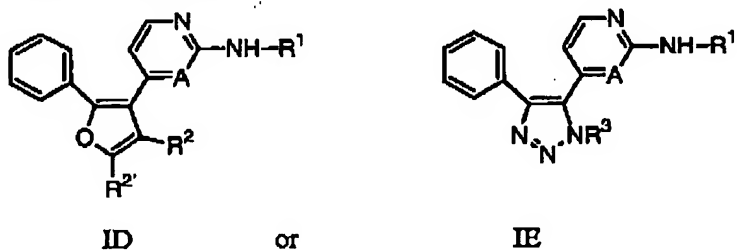
:

G, R¹ and R² are defined as

No.	G	R ¹	R ²
IC-1	4-F-phenyl	Phenyl	H
IC-2	4-F-phenyl	Cyclohexyl	H
IC-3	4-F-phenyl	Isoquinolin-4-yl	H
IC-4	4-F-phenyl	6-MeO-naphthalen-2-yl	H
IC-5	4-F-phenyl	4-cyclohexanol	H
IC-9	4-F-phenyl	Cyclohexyl	CH ₃
IC-10	4-F-phenyl	Cyclohexyl	CH ₂ -N
IC-11	Phenyl	Cyclohexyl	CH ₂ -N

and

(g) a compound of formulae:



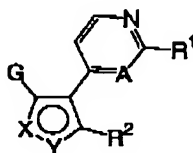
wherein R¹ is phenyl, R² is hydrogen and A is CH, and
R² is H or CH₃ in formula ID; or

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R^3 is H or CH_3 in formula IE.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) A compound having the formula:



wherein:

X-Y is N-O or O-N;

A is CH;

G is R, aryl or substituted aryl;

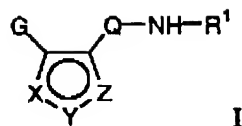
R is aliphatic or substituted aliphatic;

R^2 is selected from hydrogen, -R, $-CH_2OR$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH=O$, $-CH_2SR$, $-CH_2S(O)_2R$, $-CH_2(C=O)R$, $-CH_2CO_2R$, $-CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2CN$, $-CH_2NHR$, $-CH_2N(R)_2$, $-CH=N-OR$, $-CH=NNHR$, $-CH=NN(R)_2$, $-CH=NNHCOR$, $-CH=NNHCO_2R$, $-CH=NNHSO_2R$, -aryl, -substituted aryl, $-CH_2(aryl)$, $-CH_2(substituted\ aryl)$, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2NHCOR$, $-CH_2NHCONHR$, $-CH_2NHCON(R)_2$, $-CH_2NRCOR$, $-CH_2NHCO_2R$, $-CH_2CONHR$, $-CH_2CON(R)_2$, $-CH_2SO_2NH_2$, $-CH_2(heterocyclyl)$, $-CH_2(substituted\ heterocyclyl)$, $-(heterocyclyl)$, or $-(substituted\ heterocyclyl)$.

11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-8 effective to inhibit JNK, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

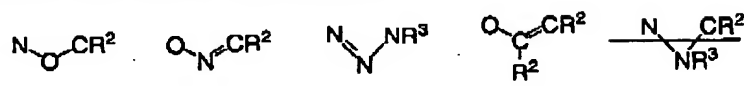
12. (Currently amended) A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis ~~a disease state or condition in mammals that is alleviated by treatment with a protein kinase inhibitor,~~ comprising administering to a mammal in need of ~~such a treatment~~ said treating a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I:

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wherein:

X-Y-Z is selected from one of the following:



R¹ is H, CONH₂, T_(n)-R, or T_(n)-Ar¹;

R is an aliphatic or substituted aliphatic group;

n is zero or one;

T is C(=O), CO₂, CONH, S(O)₂, S(O)₂NH, COCH₂ or CH₂;

each R² is independently selected from hydrogen, -R, -CH₂OR, -CH₂OH, -CH=O,

-CH₂SR, -CH₂S(O)₂R, -CH₂(C=O)R, -CH₂CO₂R, -CH₂CO₂H, -CH₂CN, -CH₂NHR,

-CH₂N(R)₂, -CH=N-OR, -CH=NNHR, -CH=NN(R)₂, -CH=NNHCOR,

-CH=NNHCO₂R, -CH=NNHSO₂R, -aryl, -substituted aryl, -CH₂(aryl),

-CH₂(substituted aryl), -CH₂NH₂, -CH₂NHCOR, -CH₂NHCONHR, -CH₂NHCON(R)₂,

-CH₂NRCOR, -CH₂NHCO₂R, -CH₂CONHR, -CH₂CON(R)₂, -CH₂SO₂NH₂,

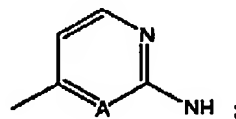
-CH₂(heterocyclyl), -CH₂(substituted heterocyclyl), -(heterocyclyl), or -(substituted heterocyclyl);

each R³ is independently selected from hydrogen, R, COR, CO₂R or S(O)₂R;

G is R or Ar¹;

Ar¹ is aryl, substituted aryl, alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocyclyl, or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein Ar¹ is optionally fused to a partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms;

Q-NH is



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wherein the H of Q-NH is optionally replaced by R³;

A is CR³;

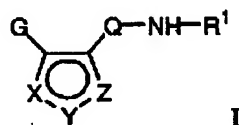
Ar² is aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl or substituted heterocyclyl, wherein Ar² is optionally fused to a partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms;

wherein each substitutable carbon atom in Ar², including the fused ring when present, is optionally and independently substituted by halo, R, OR, SR, OH, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NHR, N(R)₂, NHCOR, NHCONHR, NHCON(R)₂, NRCOR, NHCO₂R, CO₂R, CO₂H, COR, CONHR, CON(R)₂, S(O)₂R, SONH₂, S(O)R, SO₂NHR, or NHS(O)₂R, and wherein each saturated carbon in the fused ring is further optionally and independently substituted by =O, =S, =NNHR, =NNR₂, =N-OR, =NNHCOR, =NNHCO₂R, =NNHSO₂R, or =NR; and

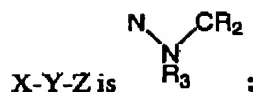
wherein each substitutable nitrogen atom in Ar² is optionally substituted by R, COR, S(O)₂R, or CO₂R.

13-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A compound having the formula



wherein:



R¹ is cyclohexyl, cyclohexanol-4-yl, cyclohexanon-4-yl, or an optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl, thienyl or indanyl; wherein each substitutable carbon atom of said optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl, thienyl or indanyl is optionally and independently substituted by halo, R, OR, SR, OH, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NHR, N(R)₂, NHCOR, NHCONHR, NHCON(R)₂, NRCOR,

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NHCO_2R , CO_2R , CO_2H , COR , CONHR , $\text{CON}(\text{R})_2$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}$, SONH_2 , $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}$, SO_2NHR , or $\text{NHS}(\text{O})_2\text{R}$, and wherein each saturated carbon in the fused ring is further optionally and independently substituted by $=\text{O}$, $=\text{S}$, $=\text{NNHR}$, $=\text{NNR}_2$, $=\text{N-OR}$, $=\text{NNHCOR}$, $=\text{NNHCO}_2\text{R}$, $=\text{NNHSO}_2\text{R}$, or $=\text{NR}$; and wherein each substitutable nitrogen atom of said phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, quinoliny, thienyl or indanyl is optionally substituted by R , COR , $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}$, or CO_2R ;

R is an aliphatic or substituted aliphatic group;

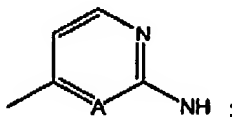
each R^2 is independently selected from hydrogen, $-\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{O}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{SR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{R})_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{N-OR}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHR}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NN}(\text{R})_2$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCOR}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHCO}_2\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}=\text{NNHSO}_2\text{R}$, $-\text{aryl}$, $-\text{substituted aryl}$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{aryl})$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{substituted aryl})$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCOR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCONHR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCON}(\text{R})_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NRCOR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCO}_2\text{R}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CONHR}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CON}(\text{R})_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{heterocycl})$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{substituted heterocycl})$, $-(\text{heterocycl})$, or $-(\text{substituted heterocycl})$;

each R^3 is independently selected from hydrogen, R , COR , CO_2R or $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}$;

G is R or Ar^1 ;

Ar^1 is aryl , substituted aryl , aralkyl , $\text{substituted aralkyl}$, heterocycl , or $\text{substituted heterocycl}$, wherein Ar^1 is optionally fused to a partially unsaturated or fully unsaturated five to seven membered ring containing zero to three heteroatoms;

Q-NH is



wherein the H of Q-NH is optionally replaced by R^3 ; and

A is CR^3 .

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of a compound according to claim 25 effective to inhibit JNK, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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27. (New) A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 25.